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ANGELINA JOLIE GOES BEHIND THE LENS

PLUS, HOW THE COEN BROTHERS STACK UP AS MENTORS. PAGES 12-13



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Peace pleas

Cooling off. Police commissioner says unions will halt criticism of Mayor de Blasio until slain cops are buried. PAGE 02

On December 13, 2014, I marched against police brutality. Today I stand against brutality against police.

'Tis the season for counterfeit handbags

PAGE 05

The world's biggest New Year's Eve parties

PAGE 16

The year's very best parenting moments

PAGE 17

Syracuse basketball learning on the fly

PAGE 19

Civilians and police gather on Tompkins Ave. to pay respects to the two NYPD officers who were shot and killed there on Saturday. / MILES DIXON, METRO

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NEWS

Top 3

The best of Metro.us

1 Discreet guide to selling unwanted Christmas gifts

2 Joe Cocker dies

3 VIDEO: Justin Timberlake surprises fans with special performance



On the go

Want to read Metro on your mobile device? Get the app! All you have to do is search for Metro US in the App Store or Google Play to get all the latest in news, sports, lifestyle and entertainment for free.



New York State Troopers pay their respects at a makeshift memorial near the site where two police officers were shot to death Saturday. / MILES DIXON, METRO

Unions back down

Police vs Mayor.

Commissioner Bratton says police unions will end their rhetorical battle with Mayor De Blasio until slain officers Wenjian Liu and Rafael Ramos are laid to rest, Police Commissioner Bill Bratton said Monday.

Leaders of the city's five police unions will "stand down" until slain officers Wenjian Liu and Rafael Ramos are laid to rest, Police Commissioner Bill Bratton said Monday.

In the hours after Liu and Ramos were shot by Ismaaiyl Brinsley in Bed-Stuy, Patrolmen's Benevolent Association President Patrick Lynch said Mayor Bill de Blasio had blood on his hands, and he and other police union leaders said the mayor's accommodation of anti-police protesters led directly to the two officers' deaths.

Lynch, Sergeant's Benevolent Association President Ed Mullins and other officers turned their backs on de Blasio as he arrived at a Brooklyn hospital to meet with the officers' families Saturday night.

Liu and Ramos were shot by an apparently deranged Brinsley, who had shot his ex-girlfriend hours earlier near Baltimore, and had a long re-



Mayor Bill de Blasio and Police Commissioner Bill Bratton at police headquarters Monday. / MILES DIXON, METRO

Quoted.

"I think we need a cooling off period, this is a holy week. Let's bring a moment of peace and calm, then move on and have a rational and sober conversation."

Gov. Andrew Cuomo

cord of arrests for mainly minor crimes in Ohio and Georgia.

Ramos's funeral will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday at Christ Tabernacle Church in Queens. Bratton said the NYPD is helping Liu's family travel from China, and a funeral will be planned once they arrive.

"Union leaders are free to say what they believe and what they feel...That's part of the bargain," Bratton said.

De Blasio visited the families of the two murdered officers and later

police headquarters, de Blasio said he believed that the city will "transcend" the current tensions between cops and citizens.

Police Commissioner Bill Bratton said on NBC's Today Show that tensions in New York reminded him of the 1970's, when he first became a cop.

"Who would have thought this would be déjà vu all over again?" Bratton said.

Bratton, who several weeks ago said the NYPD had lost the trust of many New Yorkers, said de Blasio had lost the trust of some NYPD officers.

Still, he said he didn't "support" officers turning their backs to de Blasio at Woodhull Hospital.

"There's a lot of moving currents creating that tension and atmosphere," Bratton said, citing labor negotiations and recent attacks on rookie officers. "The issue is really starting to go down partisan lines ... this is something that should be bringing us all together, not taking us apart."

Police union leader Mullins said Monday, "Sadly, for the people of New York, I feel they've lost their police department."

De Blasio called on cops and protesters to halt their debate out of respect for the slain officers' families.

Appearing later before reporters with Bratton at

Subway

Man stabbed on 6 train

A 31-year-old man was stabbed as he argued with another passenger on a northbound 6 train approaching Union Square Sunday evening, police said. The assailant, described only as a man in his 20s, fled on foot and is being sought by investigators. **METRO**

Staten Island

Rep. Grimm to plead guilty

Rep. Michael Grimm is expected to plead guilty Tuesday to federal tax fraud charges, a source



familiar with the case told Reuters. Grimm, a Republican, eas-

ily won a third term in November despite his indictment in April on charges of fraud, perjury and conspiracy relating to a Manhattan health food restaurant he formerly co-owned, Healthlicious. **REUTERS**

Staten Island

Man stabbed over beer

Police said a fight over beer left one Staten Island man dead on early Sunday morning. Officers arrested Sergio Carreto, 26, late Sunday after he allegedly jumped in on a fight not far from his home on Faber Street in Port Richmond, killing Durrell Finley, 26. Finley asked a passerby for a beer, and a fight began, police said. **METRO**

Police

Cops patrol in pairs

Officers on foot patrol have been directed to work in pairs since Officers Wenjian Liu and Rafael Ramos were killed Saturday, the NYPD said. Auxiliary police officer patrols have been suspended until further notice. **METRO**



WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE
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Petition. Call for exit of Mayor de Blasio

More than 60,000 people have signed a petition demanding the resignation of Mayor Bill de Blasio, although it's not clear how many of them live in the city.

Signatures from across the U.S. appeared on the MoveOn.org petition launched Saturday, when two NYPD officers were murdered in Brooklyn.

The petition organizer, who did not respond to Metro for comment on the initiative, wrote on the site that de Blasio "blasted his own police department by throwing them under the bus."

"His words and actions on the subject matter of late have to be held accountable," the petition read. "He is unfit to lead this city. He is unfit to have a relationship with his police department for his remaining tenure and he should be taken out of office IMMEDIATELY."

The petition has some signatures from the five

Quoted

"NYC residents demand the exit of Mayor Bill DeBlasio after 2 NYPD officers were shot and killed today 12/20/14. Accountability for his actions and words MUST be handed down." Petition

boroughs, a handful of supporters from outside New York State and many more from upstate and suburban areas outside the city. MoveOn.org, known for its support of progressive causes, noted atop the petition that "MoveOn members may disagree about whether to support this petition. MoveOn will not promote this petition beyond hosting it on our site." Organizers said on the site they want 75,000 signatures.

CHESTER JESUS SORIA



Donate your old coats clothe the cold

Charity New York Cares is asking New Yorkers to donate their new or gently used coats for the less fortunate. Its annual coat drive has only brought in 25,000 coats so far this year, but requests have already topped 100,000. The coat drive runs until Dec. 31. To find a coat drop-off location near you, visit: www.newyorkcares.org / BESS ADLER, METRO

Spreading

Retail chains rise in city

Dunkin' Donuts still reigns as the national retailer with the most locations in New York City.

A report released by the Center for an Urban Future said for the seventh

year in a row, all five boroughs have seen a net increase in national chain stores moving in. Dunkin leads with 536 locations citywide. Chain retailers grew 2.8 percent across the city up from 0.5 percent growth last year.

CHESTER JESUS SORIA

Queens

Dad charged in baby injury

Jagsheer Singh, 28, of Bayside, was charged with hurting his 4-month-old son, Nevin Janduhar, after doctors found the child had multiple severe skull fractures and a brain injury

from lack of oxygen. Singh told police the baby fell off a 4-foot-high changing table. The Queens DA's office said doctors found the injuries to be inconsistent with Singh's retelling, and that it appeared to be "non-accidental inflicted trauma." **CJN**

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Tempted by a fake Fendi? Beware

Luxury lies. Those fake Chanel bags in Chinatown are the tip of an iceberg of illicit production, child labor, and organized crime, say experts.

Looking for that last minute holiday gift that won't max out your credit card? The \$50 "Rolex" in the window or that "Louis Vuitton" handbag – just 30 bucks – calling to you from a peddler off Canal Street may be tempting.

While it's illegal to sell those counterfeit luxury goods found all over the city, there is no law preventing you, the buyer, from snagging a bargain that's too good to be true.

Except, perhaps, a moral compass that spans from Chinatown to China. When you buy a knockoff luxury brand you are sup-

porting the theft of intellectual property, a form of slave labor, and multi-billion-dollar international crime syndicates, experts told Metro.

"There is a huge demand for these goods," said Brian Brokate, a lawyer at Gibney, Anthony and Flaherty in New York, who represents Rolex in counterfeiting cases.

To the untrained eye they look like the real thing, but that's where the comparison ends. Whether it's a high-end watch or designer handbag, perfume or clothing, it's made of cheap materials that won't hold up over time, Brokate warned.

How to tell the counterfeits from the real thing? Don't be naïve; if it's selling in a storefront or on a table on the street, it's a fake, experts said. A typical knock-off Rolex might sell for less than \$50; the real thing, a new 2014 model, has a list price well above \$10,000.

The fakes come predominantly from Chinese



Shops often sell phony luxury hand bags along Canal Street. / MILES DIXON

factories, smuggled to the United States then distributed to major cities and local vendors. They are so ubiquitous that tour bus companies include stops at the "sales" on Canal Street.

In fact, many of the fakes are made in factories where children work under horrible conditions to meet quotas on illicit goods. Sometimes, workers are chained to their chairs to meet their daily

workload, Brokate said. And part of the demand is from within China, where residents want the cut-rate items for themselves.

The NYPD's Peddlers Task Force works with city's Organized Crime Investigative Division to combat the sellers and those who rent space to them. Earlier this month, cops and federal agents stormed several Queens' businesses, charging seven

people with trademark counterfeiting. Authorities seized more than \$2.2 million worth of fake designer handbags, gloves, wallets, and watches. The items bore the trademarks of Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Gucci and Prada, among others, police said.

JOE DOWD
@Metronewyork
letters@metro.us

New York law

Rules

It's a felony in New York to attach a bogus trademark to an item and sell it for more than \$1,000. Police have limited resources to go after street vendors. Even if some were stopped, others would take their place, Brokate says.

Efforts to make it a crime to buy fake luxury goods have been blocked by legislators and the judiciary. And policing third-party sellers such as eBay has proven difficult.

"There are always going to be people willing to sell and buy luxury items," Milton Pedraza, CEO of the Luxury Institute of New York, told *Luxury Daily*. "The business is too profitable and too lucrative for vendors to stop selling pirated items."

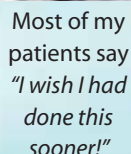


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Bio

**Jess
Fontaine**

Age: 28
Residency: Soho
Lives: With her boyfriend
Number of jobs: 3

Why three part-time jobs?

I started with one job, as the director at an investor relations (IR) firm. It was great, but it wasn't my true calling. I felt what would make me happiest is working on my own and freelancing so I could decide which companies to work with, and I love the change.

What are your three jobs now?

I work part-time as the “head of pet relations” for a pet hotel in Soho called Happy Mailman. So every day, I come here and work for a few hours, calling local businesses that we’re trying to partner with and things like that. I usually leave around noon to go to meetings. Then, I work the rest of the day from home managing my own clients and also managing clients for an IR firm I work for part-time.

Do you work on the weekends?



Fontaine / COURTESY

Yes, but it doesn't feel like work. This weekend I took my dogs to a bunch of different dog runs and met other dog owners and gave them fliers for Happy Mailman. But I loved it. Combining my passion for dogs and PR is really a dream come true.

Do you have benefits?

Nope. I'm trying to figure out which healthcare situation is best for me. So I'm a small business owner trying to help other business owners figure out things like that.

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China opposes Sony hacks, says no proof N. Korea responsible

Cyberattacks.

The FBI concluded on Friday that North Korea was responsible for hacking Sony.



Officials has said the attack on Sony could have used Chinese servers to mask its origin. / REUTERS

China said on Monday it opposed all forms of cyberattacks but there was no proof that North Korea was responsible for the hacking of Sony Pictures, as the United States has said.

North Korea has denied it was to blame and has vowed to hit back against any U.S. retaliation, threatening the White House and the Pentagon. The hackers said they were incensed by a Sony comedy about a fictional assassination of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, which the studio

has pulled. China made no reference to calls by the United States for joint action with it and other countries to counter any similar cyberattacks.

"Before making any conclusions there has to be a full [accounting of] the facts and foundation," foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said. "China will handle it in accordance with relevant

Quoted

"Before making any conclusions there has to be a full [accounting of] the facts and foundation." Chunying

international and Chinese laws according to the facts." REUTERS

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A sign of support of Army Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl is seen in Hailey, Idaho, June 1, 2014. / REUTERS

Punishment possible. Army refers Bergdahl case to US commander

A general will decide whether to pursue disciplinary action against Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl over his 2009 disappearance from his base in Afghanistan, after the Army said on Monday it forwarded the findings of its investigation to him.

Gen. Mark Milley, head of U.S. Army Forces Command, will determine "appropriate action — which ranges from no further action to convening a court martial," the Army said in a statement.

Bergdahl was released

Quoted

"I assume at some point the Army will furnish us with a copy of the investigation."

Fidell told Reuters

in May in a prisoner swap with the Taliban after five years in captivity. Some of his fellow soldiers in Afghanistan have branded him a deserter, saying he intentionally left his post before being captured by the enemy.

The Army declined to discuss the conclusions of the investigation, which were briefed to Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel last week.

"The Army cannot discuss or disclose the findings of the investigation while disciplinary decisions are pending before commanders," the Army said.

Bergdahl's attorney, Eugene Fidell, declined to discuss the case but said he looked forward to reviewing the investigation. **REUTERS**



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New Year's resolutions I'm making

This was my most successful year as a stock trader and teacher, but I'm always striving to be better. Here are my three New Year's resolutions for 2015:

Resolution No. 1: Be healthier

In the past 12 months, my business reached new heights, I started a new serious relationship and the press started hounding me daily after my second millionaire student went viral on Fox & CNN. While all of that was going on, I was still determined to indulge in my passion for

exotic travel. Through all of this, my health declined as I didn't make enough time for cardio or working out. Given that I gained nearly 50 pounds in the past year, I joke around that I'm a less-funny Jonah Hill, but I must take my health much more seriously in 2015, as no amount of personal and business success means much if I'm not around to enjoy it all.

Resolution No. 2: Give back

In the past, I've always donated my time and money to worthy causes, but this past year I just

Props to Sony for placing the safety and well being of our citizens ahead of everything else in the face of hacker threats over "The Interview." We'll watch it On Demand later!



"Thursday Night Football Saturday Edition": C'mon, NFL. You really can't come up with a better name than that?

didn't make the time. But I'm already making up for it. In the past week, I sponsored a Make-A-Wish Foundation wish for a young basketball fan and surprised him with season tickets. I also dressed up as Hanukkah Harry to deliver toys and presents to more than 100 kids at my local Boys & Girls Club. It's a good start, but I must be more diligent in helping those less fortunate.

Resolution No. 3: Cherish my friends

For exclusive commentary, visit Metro.us/blogs.

Besides gaining too much weight and ignoring my community, I didn't place enough importance on my friendships with several of my best friends. As I've gotten older, it's become tougher to keep up with my friends. In 2015, this will change as I truly miss them.

I've had a ton of success in the past year, but I've done a poor job at managing my time, health and several important relationships. I know exactly what I must do in the new year. Do you? Make a list and get to it!

What Sykes is into this week ...

1 I loved the new Dr. Evil video mocking North Korea and the entire hacker situation. Good job, "Saturday Night Live"!

2 Tom Brokaw says his cancer is in remission — great news!



3 I've heard the final chapter in "The Hobbit" movie trilogy is pretty good, thankfully. The past two movies have been less than solid.



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- I have corns on my toes which get thicker no matter what shoe size I wear.
- The bottom of my heel hurts all day, but it's worse when I step out of bed in the morning.
- I have cramps in my legs which always happen when I walk the same distance.
- My ankles are swollen most of the time.
- My feet are always dry and scaly - sometimes they itch.
- My feet just hurt all over when I stand or walk a lot.
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1 Mel B's recent hospitalization? An accidental overdose.

Last week, former Spice Girl Mel B (real name Melanie Brown) missed a taping of the British version of "X Factor" after heading to the hospital because of stomach pains. But now it turns out that was a bit of a fib. A source tell Radar Online that Brown "was hospitalized because she mixed tranquilizers, including Xanax, with alcohol. It was absolutely accidental and not intentional. She wasn't suicidal, but the pressure of being back

in London brought a lot of unresolved issues to the surface concerning being estranged from her mother, Andrea, and the rest of her family." Dang, source, ease up with the oversharing. You could've just left it at "not intentional." Brown has reportedly been holed up in a London hotel with her daughters since leaving the hospital and has been cleared by doctors to return to the U.S.

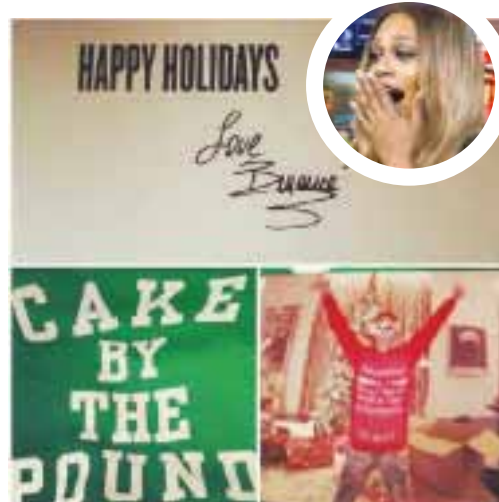


GETTY IMAGES

2 Laverne Cox flips out over Beyonce Christmas card

"Orange Is the New Black" star Laverne Cox totally wins the relatability award this year for her perfectly measured and understandable reaction to receiving a Christmas card from Beyonce. Cox posted a shot of the signature to Instagram, explaining, "So when I opened this holiday card a few days ago and read 'Love Beyonce,' I literally fell to the floor. I was on the floor of my apartment. I have witnesses." Don't worry, we believe you.

She also writes, "Thanks Bey for the gift" and includes an image of a sweatshirt emblazoned with "Cake by the Pound." It's unclear



INSTAGRAM, LAVERNE COX

whether the item is said gift — I mean, it would make sense, right? — but the important thing is, I

would like to know more about this cake-by-the-pound policy. Where do I sign up?

3 Surprise 'Hannibal' cast shake-up is surprising

Michael Pitt is evidently all done with "Hannibal" and won't be returning for the show's third season, but that doesn't mark the end of his character, meat-packing magnate Mason Verger. Pitt will be replaced by "Across the Universe" star Joe Anderson, and hopefully fans won't notice the difference. I mean, he ended Season 2 doing some pretty grisly things to his own face, meaning lots of stomach-turning prosthetics, so it just might work. Sources say Pitt made the decision to leave the show, probably seeing his



Goodbye, Michael Pitt's mangled face. Hello, Joe Anderson's. NBC, NBCU PHOTO BANK

character's intense facial mutilation as the perfect opportunity to do so.

Oh, and Anderson posted a pretty alarming

photo of himself in full Verger make-up on the character's Instagram account, and now we kind of see Pitt's point.

4 'Anger Management' apparently only gets 100 episodes

Last night's "Anger Management" finale, it turns out, was the series finale. Charlie Sheen's post-"Two and a Half Men" project is all done, as cast and crew were informed late last week by FX and Lionsgate that the show would not be renewed. "I am beyond proud of what we accomplished over the course of 100 episodes," Sheen says in a statement. "We created something uniquely special with some of the most talented individuals I have ever had the privilege to work with. My sincere thanks to all for their unwavering love and support. Here's to the next chapter."

The network brass informed the team Friday, ahead of Monday's 100th episode debut, which certainly put a damper on the celebrations. The series was kicked off in an unusual manner, with Sheen orchestrating a deal with the network where he made 10 episodes and if they liked them, they had to order a minimum of 90 more, instantly triggering a syndication deal and resulting in an often draining production schedule for those involved. Up next for Sheen? Reprising his "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" character for a cameo on "The Goldbergs."



Here's post-"Anger Management" Sheen portraying pre-"Anger Management" Sheen from "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" in a cameo on "The Goldbergs." / ABC VIA GETTY IMAGES

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Watch George Clooney on 'Downton Abbey'

Remember all that talk about George Clooney making an appearance on "Downton Abbey"? Well, here it is. Clooney gets in on the action for the series' Christmas comedy bit made for the ITV network's annual charity drive, featuring the hit British show getting the "It's a Wonder-

ful Life" treatment as Lord Grantham (Hugh Bonneville) frets about how he's ruined the family finances. "Absolutely Fabulous" star Joanna Lumley plays his guardian angel, and Clooney pops up as George Oceans Gravity, Marquess of Hollywood, the PDA-happy guy Cora (Elizabeth McGovern) ended up with since Lord Grantham had never been born. Let's just say he might've been on to something.

2 CULTURE

Twitter feed

Today, Ricky Gervais has well-researched opinions, Forest Whitaker is expecting a lot from you, Pam Grier is showing her out-of-town guests a good time, Miles Teller wishes more people would take his word for things and Jaden Smith thinks he's in on the joke.

@rickygervais: 88% of Twitter users take jokes and statistics way too seriously.

@ForestWhitaker: Each one of us can play our part in shaping the future. Each one of us has the power to make an enormous contribution to the world.

@PamGrier: Friends from Japan came to Ski! Looking to sight Quentin Tarantino, Kurt Russell in Aspen!

@Miles_Teller: I saw Ryan Adams a couple days ago, he was awesome and I had a great time, but I forgot to snapchat it so nobody will believe me

@officialjaden: I Just Scrolled Through My Tweets And "I" Started Laughing.



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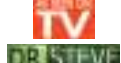
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FILM 12

Angelina Jolie goes to war

Interview. The actress didn't want "Unbroken," the second film she's directed, to be sentimental.

to spend 47 days on a life raft, then another two-and-a-half years in Japanese POW camps. But Jolie insists that her latest, based on Laura Hillenbrand's best-seller, is more of a crowd-pleaser.

What drove her to make this

"Like everybody we wake up and read the news. We see the events around the world. We're disheartened by so much. We feel overwhelmed and we don't know what's possible. I was halfway through

The last movie Angelina Jolie directed, "The Land of Milk and Honey," was a tough, grueling, brutal look at the Bosnian war. Her latest, "Unbroken," is a tough, grueling, brutal look at the life of Louie Zamperini (played by Jack O'Connell), an Olympian whose service in WWII led him



Angelina Jolie directed "Unbroken," the tale of Olympian-turned-POW Louie Zamperini (Jack O'Connell, far right). / UNIVERSAL PICTURES

The first cut

[Hillenbrand's] book and I found myself inspired and on fire. I realized if this was happening to me and I knew it had had that effect on so many others, then this was what we needed to put forward into this world at this time. I'm happy it's coming out during the holidays."

"It was three-and-a-half hours. And what was dangerous about it was I liked it. You'd be sure you'd think it was too long. But I thought, 'That feels good to me!' In the end there were about four or five scenes that didn't make it. Every-

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Quoted

"You have to listen to the audience and what they're feeling. Sometimes you make a film and it's very much your artistic creation and you're putting something unusual out there. But this was one for the audience." Jolie

A little help from her friends

Joel and Ethan Coen's advice

"The Coen brothers [who helped co-write] told me something that helped. They said when you put a book down you have a certain feeling and a certain understanding. That's what [the audience] needs to feel when they walk out of the theater. That's your job. If you literally put this book

on film, you won't make a good movie. You won't be of service to anyone." The Coens also made sure it wouldn't be too mawkish: "This film could have easily gone sentimental. It could be too earnest. We had to keep it sharp and keep it open and keep it entertaining for an audience. They were

great with personalities and with structure. Being directors — and being the Coen brothers — they were just so brilliant. Especially with the last hour, they just helped it all come together."



MATT PRIGGE
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ANGELINA JOLIE
GETTY IMAGES

thing else was trimmed. ... You have to listen to the audience and what they're feeling. If they're saying, 'I like that scene but the raft stuff feels too long,' you've got to listen. Sometimes you make a film and it's very much your artistic creation and you're putting something unusual out there. But this was one for the audience."

Stretching herself

"If you'd asked me a few years ago, 'What kind of film do you want to make?' I would never have assumed I'd make a film that included shark attacks and plane crashes. I would never have thought of myself as able to handle that kind of cinematic filmmaking. But I cared about the story so much I had to learn how to do them."

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Brie Larson keeps it real



Brie Larson plays a college student with a thing for her self-destructive professor (Mark Wahlberg) in "The Gambler." / PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Interview. The "Short Term 12" star made sure her next big film — "The Gambler" — was one of the good ones.

Actresses who get their breakthroughs with indies tend to follow a well-trod path to big Hollywood fare. For Brie Larson, star of last year's "Short Term 12," it's "The Gambler." The thing is, "The Gambler" is a most unlikely studio product —

a remake of a dark '70s drama, starring James Caan as a self-destructive professor. Here, Wahlberg is the antihero and Larson his best student/love interest.

"All the money in the world doesn't matter to me if I'm doing projects that I don't connect with," she tells us. Her character here isn't just a type. "She's not the love interest; she's the place to go to."

In this day and age, the movie's rough edges and harsh sarcasm — courtesy of "The Departed" screenwriter William Monahan — stand out in Hollywood. "It's unusual to have such rich, character-driven material and yet also have the budget to fully explore it. I'm used to it being one or the other. I've never felt so satisfied being at work."

Though she "loved every second" of shooting "Short Term 12," it was frustrating at times. "We were trying to do a movie like 'The Gambler' in a third of the time, with a fraction of the budget," she says. "I was so broke that year, when I was doing 'Don Jon' and 'The Spectacular Now' and 'Short Term 12' — those

The future

Getting better

Larson finds herself strangely positive about Hollywood, thanks to the success of actresses her age, like Jennifer Lawrence and her friend Shailene Woodley. "I feel like I'm part of this really interesting shift that's happening," she says. "There are so many smart, funny, interesting, dynamic, complicated women who are willing to be all that onscreen. Those scripts are more readily available. I'm not banging my head against the wall and saying, 'Gosh, there's nothing here.' There's so much. I'm surprised by how much good material is out there."

movies pay, like, \$800. You can't live off it. And you're working a crazy amount of hours and there's nothing you can do but trust your instincts."



MATT PRIGGE
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BRIE LARSON
GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"All the money in the world doesn't matter to me if I'm doing projects that I don't connect with." Larson

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Taking the road way less traveled

Interview. Singer Alex Clare has technology giant Microsoft to thank for his unexpected wave of success.

There are all sorts of paths to success in the music industry. But Alex Clare might have taken one of the more unexpected routes.

The British singer/songwriter's 2012 album, a soul/electronic hybrid called "The Lateness of the Hour," was not selling. It did so poorly, his label dropped him, and Clare, a religious Jew, headed to a yeshiva (seminary for Jews) in Jerusalem. But somewhere along the way, someone handed his album to the right person at Microsoft, and the company created a wildly successful ad spot using Clare's song "Too Close." The song, a pulsing, almost unsettling ode to a relationship gone wrong, soared up the charts.

"I set some conditions for leaving yeshiva. One of them was that my song would go to the top 5 in the U.K. and the other one was that my producer would phone me," says Clare. "I spoke to the head of yeshi-



See Alex Clare tonight at Irving Plaza. Tickets are \$30. Go to LiveNation.com for more details. / DAN MEDHURST

Singing style

Right in the kishkes

Clare says his main influences are soul singers. "If I've got my iPod on, I don't tend to listen to that much new music. I tend to listen to oldies. Marvin Gaye, Donny Hathaway, Stevie [Wonder], they're all still up there." As to what draws a modern singer to soul, Clare says, "It just feels good. It's not just about listening to music — it's about feeling it. With a lot of soul music, it just gets you in the kishkes."

va and told him these two things happened and he was like, 'Yeah, dude, you should probably go take care of that.'"

Clare is back with a new album, "Three Hearts," which covers new ground. The singer got married and had a baby between records, which he called "massively" influential.

The album also takes a more instrumental turn. "I always played in bands and I like musical instruments," says Clare with a laugh. "It gets a bit dull after a while making music on laptops and using samples."



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PLUS

Family

Walt Disney World

The theme park stays open until 1 a.m., and it's packed with fun activities all day long. Leading up to the midnight fireworks show, there are Cirque du Soleil performances, dance parties, live entertainers and confetti explosions to keep visitors of all ages entertained. Disney's Magical Kingdom hosts the Jingle Jungle Parade, while Epcot Center puts on an impressive lights and laser show just before midnight.



ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Best places to spend New Year's Eve

Where's the most festive place to be when the clock strikes midnight on Dec. 31? We scoured the world for the best NYE celebrations, from the beaches of Rio de Janeiro to the Las Vegas Strip.



Rio de Janeiro

Rio is best known for its Carnival festivities, but its New Year's Eve celebration comes in a close second. Copacabana Beach hosts the world's largest, and arguably wildest, New Year's Eve party, with more than two million people

cramming onto the 2.5-mile stretch of sand. Locals dress head to toe in white — believed to bring good luck — and toss handfuls of flowers into the ocean as gift to Yemanjá, goddess of the seas. The celebration also includes live music, dance performances and fireworks.

Edinburgh

"Hogmanay" translates to "last day of the year," but the annual festivities in Edinburgh actually span three days. Things kick off Dec. 30 with a torchlight procession through the city that culminates in a fireworks finale, while New Year's Eve is all about massive street parties and outdoor concerts. At midnight, 4.5 tons of fireworks explode over Edinburgh Castle. New Year's Day brings competitive dog sledding across Holyrood Park, brave souls jumping into the ice-cold waters of the River Forth at the conclusion of the Loony Dook parade (a charity event), and Scot: Lands, a multi-venue music and arts festival.

London

Londoners ring in the New Year to the chiming of Big Ben at midnight. More than 250,000 people crowd the banks of the Thames and its numerous bridges to see the spectacular 10-minute light show and fireworks display, with the London Eye, the Houses of Parliament and the new Shard highlights of the urban scenery. The fun doesn't end there, though. There are many



after-parties, and on New Year's Day the streets of central London get a parade of floats, marching bands, costumed dancers and a procession of the Queen's horses.

Las Vegas

More than 300,000 revelers descend on this party capital for the big night, when the Las Vegas Strip becomes car-free and transforms into a giant street party with live bands, pyrotechnic displays and laser shows. The city also hosts a mind-boggling number

of concerts, shows and parties in clubs, hotels and casinos. Come midnight, fireworks are launched from seven rooftops along the Strip.

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TWITTER, @FROSTYAGNES

Parents release new birth announcement for transgender teen

For a teen, telling your parents you're transitioning can be terrifying. And for parents, it can be confusing and even sad. But two parents showed their support in a huge way — by putting a new “birth” announcement in

their local paper:

“In 1995 we announced the arrival of our sprogget, Elizabeth Anne, as a daughter. He informs us that we were mistaken. Oops! Our bad. We would now like to present, our wonderful son — Kai Bogert. Loving you is the easiest thing in the world. Tidy your room.”

Their example shows how being a parent means loving your child through everything, no matter what.

Best parenting moments of 2014

These four stories will inspire you.

EMILY LAURENCE

Amazing ‘Spider-Dad’ gives his terminally ill son the best birthday surprise ever

When Mike Wilson’s son Jayden was diagnosed with brain cancer, doctors only gave him a year to live. It had been a tough year for the whole family, but Wilson didn’t



FACEBOOK, BEAU COFFRON

want his son to feel a drop of sadness on his 5th birthday. So he gave him the best surprise ever: He surprised Jayden as his favorite superhero, Spider-Man.



FACEBOOK, WCVB-TV

Mom saves son from fire

When 23-year-old mother Christina Simoes and her 18-month-old son were trapped on the third floor of their burning apartment building, she knew the only way out for them was through the window. Simoes cradled her son in her arms and jumped out

the window, landing on her back. Her only instinct was to protect her son, no matter what it meant for her.

Due to the fall, Simoes is suffering severe nerve damage and may never walk again. After falling, she lost all the feeling in her legs. She is currently in recovery. Her son, however, is completely fine.

Dad goes above and beyond with packing lunch, every day

Packing your child’s school lunch is usually thought of as an annoying chore, but Beau Coffron consistently makes his daughter Instagram-worthy lunches



YOUTUBE, BEAU COFFRON

day after day, earning him the moniker “Lunchbox Dad.” Sometimes being the best parent ever really is about the little things.



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Horoscope

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20. Make a point to network and keep in touch with important people. Offer assistance to a close friend or relative.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18. You'll feel apprehensive about getting together with old friends. Stop having regrets about your past. People love you for who you are. Stand tall.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Not everything will go according to plan. Take things as they come. If you don't overreact to minor matters, you will avoid retaliation.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. You will find the perfect gift for someone special. Don't waste time asking for other people's opinions.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. Don't worry if you can't complete your whole shopping list. It's not about how much you give or spend, it's about the love and sincerity that you offer.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. A blossoming partnership will bring you happiness. You will be greatly appreciated if you use your unique talents to make family gatherings a big hit.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. You will leave a lasting impression if you devote your time to someone elderly or lonely. Before you travel, finish your chores.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. Generosity at this time of year is not about spending money. You will grab attention if you contribute your ideas.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. All the hustle and bustle will try your patience. Short tempers can lead to hurtful arguments, so it's wise to go off by yourself, where you can reflect.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. Your charisma will make you the center of attention. Host a party. You have the ability to make everyone feel important and at ease.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Now is a great time to reconnect with people. Get out and socialize, but take care not to overindulge.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Family dynamics will become strained if you put demands on the ones you love. Sightseeing will take your mind off troublesome situations at home or work. **EUGENIA LAST**

Best of 2014

Through the holidays, Metro takes a look at the issues important to letter writers in 2014. Whether it was gun violence, domestic violence, world conflicts — or cyclists! — Metro readers had a lot to say. Here are some excerpts:

Immigration

There always have been and always will be immigration LAWS. And they are meant to be restrictive. All countries do this, to protect their own citizens/country from being overrun. One must follow the LAWS or be thrown out. And please don't use that tired old statement about the illegals taking unwanted jobs. If that is true, how come we have so many unemployed people on welfare? Our country is becoming the land of poor peasants with a few extremely rich lords and masters.

MARIL GOSNIK (JULY 31)

I want to urge that we do seek comprehensive reform on immigration and advocate for executive action if Congress will not comply. Since when did

we as Americans forget about the human dignity documented and undocumented people deserve? We cannot reject the thousands of women and children arriving at our border seeking amnesty. **CHARLES HAJJAR (NOV. 21)**

Give 'em hell, Mr. President! He did what he had to do, since the Republican House was unwilling or unable to do anything. This whole sordid saga reinforces the old adage, "Those who can, do; those who can't, bitch" — which is what the Republicans will do for the rest of the year — and then some. **RICHARD ZIEGENFUSS (NOV. 24)**

Obama wants to suspend deportations of undocumented immigrants, which seems a humanitarian thing to do. If he had acted when Democrats controlled both houses, he could have passed a comprehensive immigration bill then, so the impasse is his own fault.

GEORGE CHRISTIAN JR. (NOV. 24)

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Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Sudoku: Easy and hard

	2	7					4	9
		3	9		7			
1				5			8	
9			4		5			
		5	1	3	6	7		
			8		2			1
	5			1				6
			3		9	4		
7	4					9	1	

3	7						6	
		6	8	5			4	
		8		7	6			1
4	5				9	1		
				3				
		3	4				8	5
5			7	2		8		
	1			6	8	9		
	6						2	7

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Crossword

Across

- 1 Kind of coverage
- 6 Mete out
- 10 Territory
- 14 "Then — will guide the planets ..."
- 15 Deep black
- 16 Statuesque model
- 17 Four-bagger
- 18 Arrow launcher
- 20 Fritters away
- 22 Cast member
- 23 Beethoven pieces
- 26 Sgt.'s status
- 27 Walking on air
- 28 Gazed into the sun
- 33 Bordered
- 34 Frighten
- 35 66, e.g.
- 36 Pole on a ship
- 37 Platter players (hyph.)
- 38 Interval
- 39 Aleta's son
- 40 Like mud on cleats
- 41 Makeshift
- 42 Fuzzier
- 44 Sporty cars
- 45 Hearing aid?
- 46 Most gloomy
- 47 "Mission" starter
- 50 Tiara
- 52 Galvanized
- 54 Veins of ore

- 58 Post-kindergarten
- 59 Livy's year
- 60 Radius companions
- 61 Faint, with "over"
- 62 Latin I verb
- 63 Site

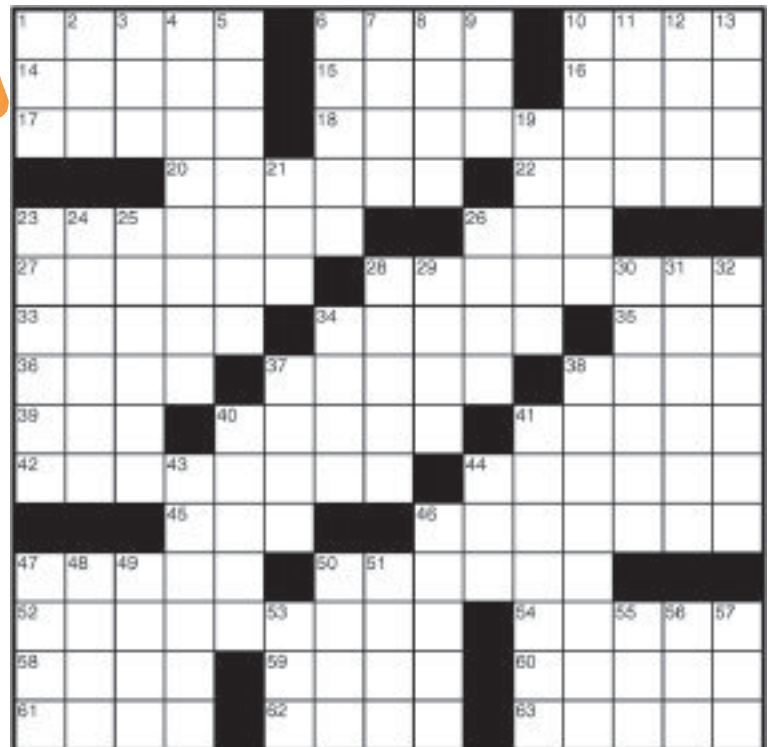
Down

- 1 Radar-gun info
- 2 Want-ad letters
- 3 Block, as a stream
- 4 Restaurant freebie (2 wds.)
- 5 Filled with fizz
- 6 Sums owed
- 7 Clarinet's kin
- 8 Wall Street stats
- 9 Jr. naval officer
- 10 Diamond-like gem
- 11 Jump over
- 12 Billioth, in combos
- 13 Amtrak driver
- 19 Unstated
- 21 Crestfallen
- 23 Vacillate
- 24 Seasoned vet (2 wds.)
- 25 1998 Winter Olympics host
- 26 Cell habitants
- 28 Less risky
- 29 Tobacco chew
- 30 Company
- 31 Chopin wrote dozens
- 32 Loathe

- 34 Netherlands sight
- 37 Kojak's lack
- 38 Arbiter of fashion
- Beau —
- 40 Join, as hands
- 41 Arises (2 wds.)
- 43 Soup legume
- 44 Spanish hero El —
- 46 Willem in "Platoon"
- 47 Journey
- 48 Bylaw
- 49 Queens' — Stadium
- 50 Puts on
- 51 Charged particles
- 53 Funny Charlotte —
- 55 Santa — winds
- 56 Laird's prefix
- 57 Compass pt.



Yesterday's answer



Syracuse hoop gearing up for grind of ACC play

NCAA. Orange have showed they can play with the big boys despite average record.

It had to be an excruciating flight home for Syracuse last Saturday after the Orange — just 4.2 seconds away from a wire-to-wire win over No. 7 ranked Villanova — incredibly wound up losing, 82-77, in overtime.

Once the shock and disappointment wears off, the Orange (6-4) could perhaps take pride that they were in the position to take 'Nova to the brink in the first place. That might be the first step in ensuring they get the job done next time.

"We've just got to find ways to pull out these close ones," said guard Michael Gbinije, who scored 18 points and handed out five assists. "This is a big game

Orange slices

A look at the 6-4 Orange:

- Rakeem Christmas leads the team in scoring at 16.6 ppg.
- Chris McCullough and Trevor Cooney each average just over 12 ppg.
- Syracuse opens ACC play on Jan. 3 at Virginia Tech.

when they had the chance.

"We had them beaten for almost 40 minutes," said Trevor Cooney. "Everyone knows this would've been a huge win. But we're right there. That's the one thing this shows. Villanova's not gonna lose a lot of games this year and we were right with them."

Someone asked Jim Boeheim to look ahead and project what a game like this might mean come NCAA Tournament time in March. The craggy coach, who knows he doesn't have any Derrick Colemans, Rony Seikaly, Pearl Washingtons or Carmelo Anthonys on this team, wouldn't take the bait.

"I'm not even thinking about that," said Boeheim, whose team figures to be in the middle of the pack in the ACC. "I'm thinking about playing Colgate. March is a long ways away."

JON MARKS
@MetroNewYork
sports@metro.us



Rakeem Christmas leads the Orange in scoring. / GETTY IMAGES

NBA power rankings | by James Toscano

No. 1



Warriors (22-3)

Golden State had its 16-game winning streak snapped by the Grizzlies last week, but responded with a win over the Thunder (though Kevin Durant couldn't play in the second half due to injury). The Warriors remain the team to beat in the Western Conference.

No. 2

Grizzlies (21-6)



Two straight 1's for the Griz after a triple-OT thriller over the Spurs. Zach Randolph's knee injury doesn't appear serious.

No. 3

Blazers (22-6)



The Blazers are 3-0 since losing Robin Lopez to a broken hand. But with Lopez out for six weeks or so, it will catch up to them.

No. 4

Raptors (22-6)



The Raptors unveiled a new team logo last week and the basketball-dribbling dinosaur will be no more.

No. 5

Rockets (19-7)



Four double-doubles in four games for Dwight Howard since he's returned but Houston is just 2-2 in those outings.

No. 6

Mavs (20-8)



The addition of Rajon Rondo makes this team an absolute title contender. But adding a unique talent like Rondo will take some getting used to.

No. 7

Clippers (19-8)



It's rare that a team as talented as the Clips goes under the radar like this. Especially in a major market like L.A.

No. 8

Spurs (17-11)



Four losses in a row for the Spurs. Two triple-OT losses had Pop sitting his main guys against the Mavericks. Rough week.

No. 9

Hawks (19-7)



One of the pleasant surprises this season, the Hawks have won 12 of their last 13 games, with their only loss coming to Orlando at the buzzer.

No. 10

Cavs (16-10)



Good win for the Cavs over the Zach Randolph-less Grizzlies. Dion Waiters looked tremendous in that one.

No. 11

Suns (15-14)



After losing six games in a row, the Suns appear to have righted the ship with three straight wins. They host Dallas Tuesday.

3

SPORTS



NFL

House cleaning in order?

Rex Ryan is likely done in New York. Ditto for general manager John Idzik. According to ESPN, the Jets reached out to former Texans and Redskins GM Charley Casserly to "consult" if owner Woody Johnson replaces Ryan and/or Idzik. The report said that Johnson's reaching out to Casserly is a strong indication the Jets are preparing to start over.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Formation of MI
COMEDOR, LLC. Articles of
Organization filed with Secy. of
State of New York (SSNY) on
September 15, 2014. Office
location: New York County.
SSNY designated as agent of
LLC upon whom process
against it may be served. SSNY
shall mail process to: The LLC,
1374 First Ave., Suite 1A, New
York, NY 10021.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a
license, Number Pending for On
Premise Liquor has been applied
for by the undersigned to sell
Liquor, Wine & Beer at retail in a
Restaurant under the Alcoholic
Beverage Control Law at 1233
Flatbush Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11226
for on-premise consumption. Do It
All Entrepreneurs LLC.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a license, no. 1281427 has
been applied for by Raw Sugar
Brooklyn LLC to sell beer, wine
and liquor at retail under the
Alcoholic Beverage Control Law, at
a Bar located at 103 Berry Street,
Brooklyn, NY 11211, for on-
premises consumption.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a license, Number 1280910 for
Beer, Wine & Liquor has been
applied for by the undersigned to
sell Beer, Wine and Liquor at retail
in a Bar/Cafe under the Alcoholic
Beverage Control Law at 1095
Bergen Street, Brooklyn, NY 11216
for on-premises consumption. Bar
Bertrand LLC.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a
license, Number Pending for
On Premise Liquor has been
applied for by the undersigned to
sell Beer, Wine & Liquor at retail in
a Restaurant under the Alcoholic
Beverage Control Law at 57-38
Myrtle Ave., Ridgewood, NY 11385
for on-premise consumption.
Ridgewood Ale House, Inc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a license, Number Pending
for On Premise Liquor has been
applied for by the undersigned to
sell Liquor, Wine & Beer at retail in
a Restaurant under the Alcoholic
Beverage Control Law at 127 E.
34th Street, New York, NY 10016 for
on-premise consumption. VER34
LLC.

Notice of Qualification of
Insight Pharmaceutical
Solutions, LLC. Application for
Auth. filed with the Secy. of
State of New York (SSNY) on
11/19/2014. Office location: NY
County. LLC formed in
Pennsylvania (PA) on 9/12/2013.
SSNY designated as agent of
LLC upon whom process against
it may be served. SSNY shall
mail process to LLC c/o Incomp
Services, Inc., One Commerce
Plaza, 99 Washington Ave. Suite
805-A, Albany, NY 12210-2822.
Albany County. Arts. of Org filed
with PA Secy. of State, 401
North St., RM 406, Harrisburg,
PA 17120. Purpose: any lawful
activity.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that a license, Number TBA for
Tavern Wine has been applied for
by the undersigned to sell Wine &
Beer at retail in a Restaurant under
the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law
at: 98 Avenue C, New York, NY
10009 for on-premises
consumption. Lois Barr LLC

Notice of Formation of WL7
LLC Articles of Organization filed
with Secy. of State of NY
(SSNY) on October 14, 2014.
Office location: New York
County. SSNY designated as
agent of LLC upon whom
process against it may be
served. SSNY shall mail to: c/o
Kibum Lee, 100 Riverside Blvd.
Suite 25A, New York, NY 10069.
Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Qualification of 700
Pharmacy LLC. Application for
Auth. filed with the Secy. of
State of New York (SSNY) on
10/16/2014. Office location: NY
County. LLC formed in
Pennsylvania (PA) on
11/09/2012. SSNY designated
as agent of LLC upon whom
process against it may be
served. SSNY shall mail process
to: 700 Pharmacy LLC, 700 East
Townshipline Rd, LL1,
Havertown, PA 19083. Arts. Of
Org. filed with PA Secy. of State,
401 North Street, Harrisburg, PA
17120. Purpose: any lawful
activity.

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